

House Republican Press Release

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Williams Opposes Flawed State Budget



HARTFORD- State Representative Sean Williams (R-Watertown) voted against the proposed biennial budget package this week for 2006 and 2007. Citing “flawed logic” and “out-of-step priorities” Representative Williams noted that the heavy increase in taxes and spending made it impossible to support the budget bill.

“Connecticut is already the highest taxed state per capita in all of the United States,” said **Representative Williams**. “Taxes and spending have increased in Connecticut triple the rate of inflation, and Connecticut residents already work until May 3rd just to pay their tax bills. Now the Democratic majority is saying that taxpayers somehow don’t pay enough. It’s an outrage.”

The biennial budget increases spending by 8.9% in the first year, cuts no net spending, and breaks the constitutionally mandated spending cap by \$110 million. It also spends \$650 million of the \$700 million budget surplus for this year, and increases taxes by \$738 million.

“Once again, the House Democrats have shown that they care about big cities, and the smaller towns are left the scraps,” said **Representative Williams**. “Bridgeport, Hartford and new Haven get \$20 million or 32% of the \$62 million in education funding, while they represent less than 12% of all students in the state. And out of the \$90 million increase in municipal aid, those same cities get \$28 million or 31% of the total, while they represent less than 12% of the state population. And while small towns like Watertown and Woodbury are left to claw for table scraps, the Democrats managed to set aside \$18 million in a slush fund to pass out as patronage and for pet projects.”

Williams noted that the centerpiece of the huge tax increase is the retroactive estate tax and corporate surcharge. “I guess this means that the Democrats really believe no one is paying their fair share,” said **Representative Williams**. “Even the dead.”